



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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SPOT COMMENTARY

22 February 1991
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IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #595

More Reactions to the Soviet Initiative

Overnight press has continued to feature international reactions to the Soviet Union's peace proposal and Iraq's apparent acceptance of it.

- o The European Community will take a cautious approach to the Soviet peace initiative, according to Luxembourg Foreign Minister Poos. The EC feels the proposal focuses solely on Iraqi withdrawal and ignores the other UN resolutions.

- o German Foreign Minister Genscher said Iraq's acceptance of the Soviet proposal increases the chance for peace in the Gulf, but added that the plan needs clarification on several important points.

- o Italian Prime Minister Andreotti called the Soviet plan generally positive but said several points in the proposal needed to be "fine-tuned."

- o Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark called the Soviet plan "promising" but said that more negotiations are needed.

- o Egypt's Ambassador to the United Nations called Iraq's agreement to the Soviet initiative "an important first step."

- o Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama said the Japanese government cannot immediately welcome the peace proposal and expects that more talks will be held.

- o Australian Prime Minister Hawke welcomed the possibility of an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait but acknowledged that the Soviet proposal leaves significant uncertainties about the timing and specifics of a cease-fire and the monitoring of the withdrawal.

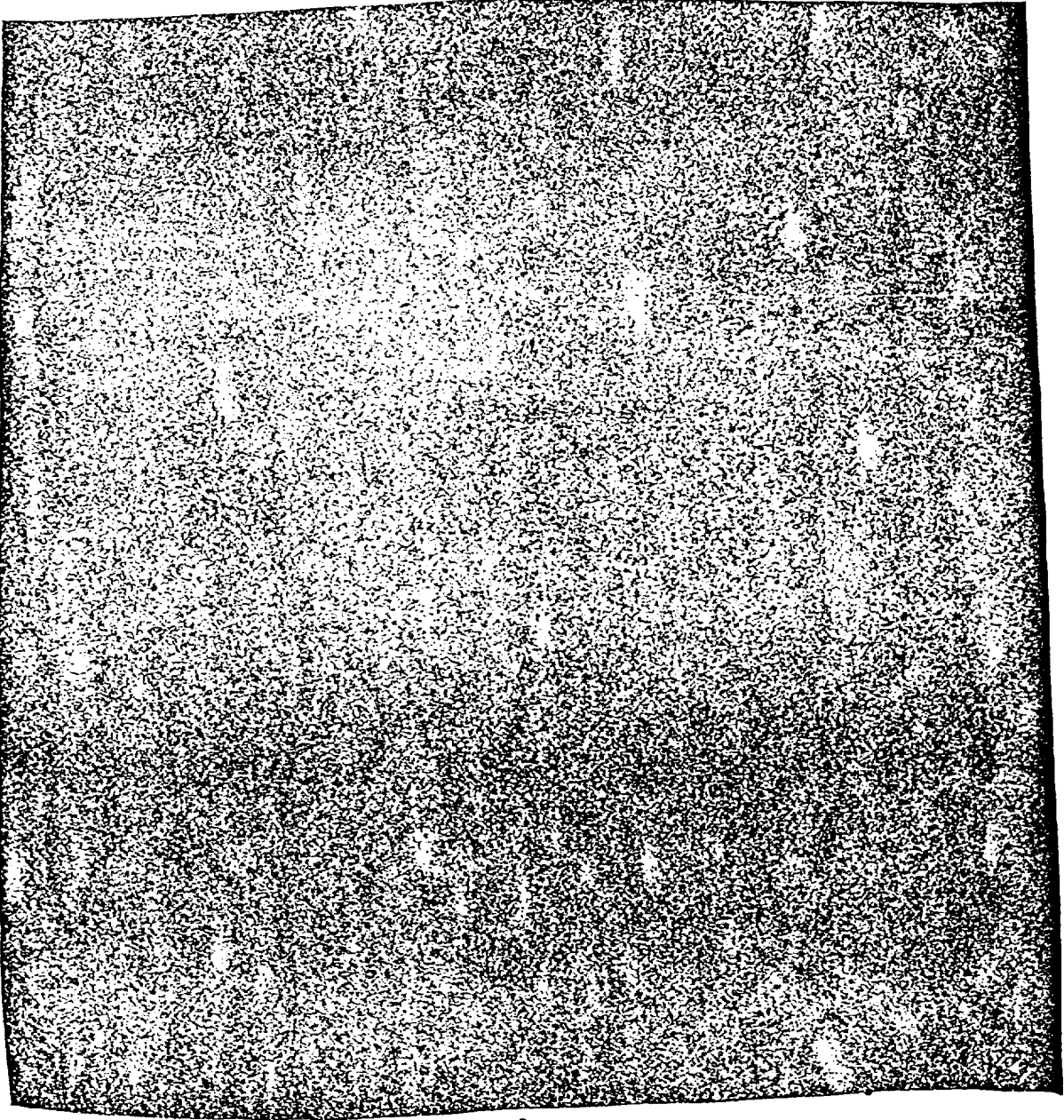
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o Norwegian Foreign Minister Stoltenberg said Oslo is positive Iraq seems prepared to withdraw from Kuwait and is ready to help the United Nations carry out a peace plan. [REDACTED]



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Exemptions: (b)(1) (b)(2)